

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 107

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I might remove my name from H.R. 107 as a cosponsor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BACHMANN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BRITISH-AMERICAN INTER- PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Member on the part of the House to the British-American Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. CICILLINE, Rhode Island

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913 and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China:

Mr. WOLF, Virginia

Mr. PITTINGER, North Carolina

Mr. MEADOWS, North Carolina

HONORING CIPRIANO GARZA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cipriano Garza, who this Saturday will be joining the ranks of the select few members in the South Dade High School's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Throughout his life, Cip—as he is known—has achieved high levels of personal success and excelled in his profession, making him a great example of the diversity and ingenuity of the south Florida community.

During his senior year at South Dade High, Cip set new State and school records for the 100-yard dash at the State Championships while crossing the finish line barefoot.

As a son of migrant farm workers, Cip has used his unique perspective in working with Dade County Public Schools to create innovative educational programs and eradicate the school dropout rate among children of migrant farm workers.

In 1993, after being appointed a special assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Cip became the first Mexican-American to receive a Presidential appointment in the State of Florida.

Cip's many accomplishments and dedication to the betterment of the community make him deserving of this great honor.

Congratulations to Cip Garza.

ACA REPEAL

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today, for the 37th time, the Republicans set a vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. Yet again, this is a waste of time and taxpayer resources on pure political posturing, rather than working hard on behalf of hardworking American taxpayers.

As a freshman Member, I can tell you where I stand, and that is in 100 percent pure full support of the Affordable Care Act.

Republicans have ignored real problems affecting our country and instead have chosen to attack the poor and most vulnerable. Millions of Americans are already enjoying protections and benefits under the law. In my State of Texas, over 300,000 young adults are able to stay under their parents' plan. Over 3 million women and 1.8 million senior citizens have access to preventive care. Many more will have insurance coverage once the insurance exchanges are in place for 2014.

Republicans constantly talk about requiring more efficiency and reducing redundancy in Federal Government. How about we start reducing redundancy right here in Congress? Let's move beyond messaging bills and into actual substantive legislation. Let's focus on jobs and grow the economy rather than wasting money on repealing the Affordable Care Act.

SO-CALLED AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Americans want and need greater access to health care, and they deserve reforms that will lower costs and expand access, but without undermining quality and innovation.

These were the promises of the President's health care reform law. They were worthy goals. Unfortunately, they are not reality.

To the contrary, over the past 3 years, families and businesses have seen a 400 percent premium increase for health care. Patients are being denied coverage that physicians will not accept. Employers have slowed hiring under new costs and the fear of what is ahead.

This Congress has rescinded funding for or completely repealed eight separate provisions of ObamaCare. Key provisions of the act are beginning to collapse under the weight of their own irreparable flaws. And even my Demo-

cratic colleagues have warned of the law's looming "train wreck."

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. Full repeal of this flawed policy is the first step to enacting commonsense reforms to actually lower costs and expand access. Only then can we enact a law that can be truly called the "Affordable Care Act."

AUTOMATIC IRA ACT OF 2013

(Mr. NEAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about legislation that I have reintroduced—the Automatic IRA Act of 2013.

According to Boston College's Center for Retirement Research, the United States has a retirement income deficit of \$6.6 trillion.

One area I think we need to focus on is getting more low and middle-income workers into retirement savings.

It is estimated that 75 million workers—or half of American workers—have no employer-provided retirement plan or other opportunity to save for workplace contributions. The auto IRA is a commonsense solution to dramatically expand retirement savings in the United States.

Listen to this: this auto IRA proposal was jointly developed by myself, along with the Brookings Institution and the Heritage Foundation. It has garnered widespread support, including from AARP, the U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce, the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement, and the Aspen Institute Initiative on Financial Security.

This is a commonsense piece of legislation that should be joined by both parties in advancing retirement opportunities for the American people.

PROMOTING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to encourage my colleagues to cosponsor legislation I have introduced to ensure that the State of Israel maintains its qualitative military edge.

Israel recently celebrated its 65th anniversary of independence.

Unfortunately, many of Israel's neighbors continue their relentless attacks against this Nation. While Iran pursues its nuclear program, it has launched cyber attacks against Israel.

Israel is under constant danger from both conventional and unconventional weapons. However, the current statutory definition of "qualitative military edge" does not include the threats posed by militia activity or cyber attacks.

These are very real threats against Israel and must be taken into account.